



## **Call for Applications for Students and Mentors 2019 Pan-Africa Youth Leadership Program Deadline: Monday, December 17, 2018**

The Embassy of the United States of America is accepting applications for the 2019 Pan-Africa Youth Leadership Program (PYALP).

This U.S. Department of State-funded program offers secondary school youth (**ages 15-18**) and adult educators the opportunity to explore key themes such as conflict resolution, economic development, entrepreneurship, civic education, youth leadership, women's rights, and respect for diversity. Through three-week, intensive exchanges in the United States, participants will engage in workshops on leadership and service, community site visits related to the program themes and subthemes, interactive training in conflict resolution, presentations, visits to high schools, local cultural activities, and homestays with local American families. A key component of the program requires participants to develop follow-on community-based projects in their home communities to effect positive change after their return home.

Approximately 150 youth and adult participants will travel to the United States in two separate, mixed-country delegations in the spring and summer of 2018. **Mauritian participants will attend the spring exchange program (in English) scheduled from April 7-28, 2019.** The exchanges will take place at various colleges, universities, and institutions throughout the United States.

### **Candidate Description and Qualifications:**

The youth participants should all be high school students aged between 15 to 18 years **at the start of the exchange** who have demonstrated their leadership potential through academic achievement, community involvement, and engagement in extracurricular activities. Participants must have strong English.

### **A successful youth candidate for this program will:**

- A. be a high school student who is aged 15, 16, 17 or 18 years at the starting of the exchange;
- B. be proficient in English;
- C. be able to attend at least one additional semester of high school in his/her home country following completion of the program;

- D. indicate a serious interest in learning more about the United States of America;
- E. demonstrate strong leadership qualities and potential in his/her school or community;
- F. have a high level of academic achievement, as indicated by academic grades, awards, and teacher recommendations;
- G. demonstrate a personal commitment to community service and record of engagement in extracurricular activities;
- H. have had little or no prior study or travel experience in the United States or elsewhere outside of his/her home country;
- I. be mature, responsible, independent, confident, open-minded, tolerant, thoughtful and inquisitive; and
- J. be willing and able to fully participate in an intensive program, including community service events and an active educational travel program during the exchange, as well as in follow-on activities afterward in his/her home country.

**Adult candidates nominated for this program will:**

- A. be teachers, trainers, volunteers, or community leaders who work with youth;
- B. be proficient in English;
- C. have a commitment to remain in teaching positions or other positions of influence on young leaders after the program ends;
- D. indicate a serious interest in learning about the United States of America;
- E. demonstrate an interest in further developing his/her professional skills;
- F. be eager to work with the teenage participants and to assist them to become productive and responsible members of society;
- G. exhibit maturity and open-mindedness; and
- H. be willing and able to fully participate in an intensive program, including community service events and active educational travel program during the exchange, as well as to mentor youth in their follow-on activities afterward in their home countries.

### **Other Useful Program Information:**

A. Program funding: The Meridian International Center will cover **all** program costs, including round-trip international travel, alumni activities, lodging, stipends, all in-country program related expenses.

B. Health benefits: Participants will be covered by the Accident and Sickness Program for Exchanges (ASPE) health benefits program. ASPE is a limited, health benefit program (not insurance) that covers medical expenses associated with each illness or accident up to \$100,000 per occurrence. ASPE does not cover routine examinations or pre-existing conditions. ASPE information is available at <http://www.usdos.sevencorners.com>.

C. Visas: Selected participants will travel to the United States on J-1 visas under the designations of G-1-00290 (students). There should be no fees incurred for the visa application.

### **Nomination/Interviews:**

The Embassy of the United States of America will review all the applications and pre-selected candidates will be required to attend an interview at the embassy **on January 7, 2019**.

The Embassy of the United States of America will nominate up to seven students (five principals and two alternates) and two adult mentors (one principal and one alternate) for the 2019 edition of the PYALP.

The nomination of five principal students as specified above does not guarantee selection. The Embassy of the United States of America will nominate candidates in rank order. Final selection will be made in Washington D.C. and the U.S. Embassy in Mauritius will inform selected candidates in due course.

Deadline to submit applications to the Embassy of the United States of America is Monday, December 17, 2018.

Application forms (see attached) must be sent/delivered to:

The Public Affairs Section  
Re: PYALP 2019  
U.S. Embassy  
Rogers House, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Port Louis

**Applications submitted after the deadline will not be accepted.**